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SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: But that's...but, Senator, that's because (interruption)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator, this is my time and there are a lot of people that are speaking, so I prefer not to debate at this point. The...the issue of balance on committees I think is a bogus argument. I think it's an argument just used because we don't want to make a change. The...the Business and Labor Committee and the Health Committee, with the exception of the chairs of those two committees, I think work very well, and they are...that was a joke, Senator Abboud, that was a joke. And they are not balanced. They cannot be balanced. They are seven-member committees and, obviously, you can't get equal represen...you can't divide four into seven and come up with equal representation. It works relatively well and it would work with the system we have now. We don't end up...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...with geographic balance. The concept of studying the committees is another one of these things that we've had study after study after study. The last time there was any willingness by the body to actually make a change was during the Beutler one era, when Chris Beutler chaired a committee prior to his leaving the legislature, obviously, prior to his coming back. There were changes made in the mid-1980s. Last year we took an exhaustive look at the committees. We did research. We did interviews. The body didn't want to change the makeup of the committees. No to say we have to wait to change Committee on Committees until we change the committees, themselves, I think is a bogus argument. I support the Elmer amendment, and I support the change being proposed to us by the Rules Committee.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Brashear, members of the Legislature, Senator Elmer, thank you for your amendment. I am not going to speak to it. I think everybody agrees that it was a good idea. I did want to talk a little bit about the background of this thing. The very eastern most portion of Nebraska, the Omaha